



**SPANISH**

**Lesson Summary**

**Lesson**

**4**

**UNIT 5**

**Situations**

## The Correct Use of Tense – Preterite and Pluperfect

### INTRODUCTION

You already know of the preterite. In this lesson you will use it in the composition and then you will pass on to the pluperfect.

#### OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- a) Use the preterite in your composition
- b) Use the pluperfect tense in your composition



### GETTING STARTED

You must bear in mind that the **preterite** is used in the composition to push the action along.

- 1) for a single completed action in past time
- 2) to say what happened when something else was going on

### SECTION ONE - USING THE PRETERITE

To practice the preterit, again begin with the introductions used before. **Sample one** ended with the writer taking a seat in the yard. Let us imagine that the writer was preparing cards or gifts for friends and family.

Decide what are some of the things that he or she did and write them using the preterit.

Use sample four. Write in the first person what the student did and what his parents did following the receipt of the report card.

Use any of your favourite introductions and do a similar exercise. When your tutor has seen them and is satisfied with your good work you will move on to the Pluperfect.

## SECTION TWO – USING THE PLUPERFECT

The **pluperfect** can be found on page 38 of your text. This tense is used to show that **an action occurred further back in the past than the time already indicated** in the essay or the sentence you are working on.

You will practice forming the imperfect under the supervision of your tutor. It is really very simple.

Next you will discuss in English the timing of events for different essays identifying pluperfect actions. You are now ready to write.



### ACTIVITY

Complete the following sentences using the pluperfect tense (another action that happened before)

Cuando llegó mi  
mamá.....

Era el tres de mayo  
y.....

Los espectadores aplaudieron  
porque.....

Era muy tranquilo en aquel momento  
porque.....

Fui a buscar a mi papá para descubrir que  
ya.....

Bravo! You are now able to construct your two main paragraphs of about 50-55 words. Use one of the outlines you practiced with and combine your introduction with the two paragraphs. Have your tutor comment on your writing before your next lesson. Continue to use your dictionary for support.

## CONCLUSION

You should be pleased with your work now. If you are not practice some more in your spare time and send your work to your tutor. Remember you will still have opportunities to write more compositions in the next three lessons. You should be close to your word limit now. You can write a good introduction and you can outline your two main paragraphs. In the next lesson you will get the opportunity to build your vocabulary and minimise the use of the dictionary.

**!Adelante a lección cinco!**